



**SAINT MARIA GORETTI**

*Est. 1941*

**CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL**

### **Social Media Policy Agreement**

As Pope Benedict XVI once said regarding the use of technology in the modern world, we must use every means possible to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Prudent use of that technology is one of our primary responsibilities.

Social media includes, but is not limited to, Facebook, Instagram, X (Twitter), websites, blogs, e-mail, texting, Instant Messaging, online videos, and chat rooms. Because social media is so easy to use, so individualized and accessed in real time, it is essential that volunteers understand the diocesan policies governing their use. The Diocese of Fort Worth asks all volunteers to review and follow the standards outlined in the Social Media Policy. The following “DO” and DON'T” sections represent a summary of key points of the social media policy but is not meant to replace the official diocesan policy which can be found on our SMG Safe Environment page. It should also be used as a guide for your behaviors in your personal social media because you are a Catholic volunteer and a role model for the faithful.

#### **DO:**

- Do use social media as a form of evangelization of the faithful.
- Do create and maintain your social media with Christian charity, good judgment, and respect for truth.
- Do monitor and update your social media site frequently to ensure it does not contain inappropriate information.
- Do identify yourself as a volunteer on your personal social media, add a disclaimer found in the policy that makes it clear the ideas expressed are not the Diocese's position.
- Do recognize that all social media is by nature public.

#### **DON'T:**

- Don't use social media to access or share inappropriate sites.
- Don't disclose confidential parish or diocesan information on personal social media.
- Don't use official diocesan or parish crest or logos on personal social media.
- Don't use language that can be interpreted as obscene, offensive, or having sexual overtones on official or personal social media.
- Adult volunteers cannot use social media to communicate with non-family children under age 18 without specific parental permission.

I acknowledge having read the Social Media Policy. I agree, as shown by my signature below, to accept, endorse, and abide by these policies.

Volunteer printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

Volunteer signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_